

Case 3275

***Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of usage by designation of *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 70.2 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the name *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 for a group of ground beetles (CARABIDAE) by validating Lorenz's (1998) designation of *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 (currently *Blackburnia palmae*) as the type species. The valid type species by monotypy is *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877. However, acceptance of this type species fixation would cause confusion, as it does not match the current and universally accepted concept of *Metromenus*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CARABIDAE; *Blackburnia*; *Anchomenus mysticus*; *Metromenus palmae*; Hawaii; ground beetles.

1. Sharp (1884, p. 217) described the genus *Metromenus* for a group of ground beetles (family CARABIDAE) from Hawaii. *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877 (p. 147) is the only species mentioned in his original description of the genus and is thus the type species by monotypy.

2. Blackburn & Sharp (1885) included 19 species in *Metromenus*: *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 (p. 147) was the first-listed species, whereas *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877 was listed last.

3. Sharp (1903) expanded the treatment of *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884, recognizing 26 species, 13 newly described. *Metromenus palmae* (Blackburn, 1877) was again listed first among the species. He placed *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877 in a new genus, *Mysticomenus* Sharp, 1903.

4. Lorenz (1998, p. 116) invalidly designated *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 as the type species of *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884.

5. Bousquet (2002) noted the mention of only *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877 in Sharp's (1884) generic description of *Metromenus* and stated that 'strict

adherence to the Code would imply that the type species of *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 (currently a valid subgenus of *Blackburnia* Sharp, 1878) is *Anchomenus mysticus* Blackburn, 1877, by monotypy'. However, as this was no longer in accord with the accepted concept of *Metromenus*, Bousquet suggested that the Commission be asked to validate Lorenz's (1998) invalid designation of *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 as type species of *Metromenus*. After 1885, all uses of the name *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 have been consistent with the usage of the name as understood by Blackburn & Sharp (1885) and Lorenz (1998; see para. 4 above) (e.g. Timberlake, 1918; Swezey, 1954; Liebherr & Zimmerman, 1998; 2000).

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 before the designation of *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877 by Lorenz (1998);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Lorenz (1998) *Dyscolus palmae* Blackburn, 1877, as ruled in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *palmae* Blackburn 1877, as published in the binomen *Dyscolus palmae* (specific name of the type species of *Metromenus* Sharp, 1884).

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